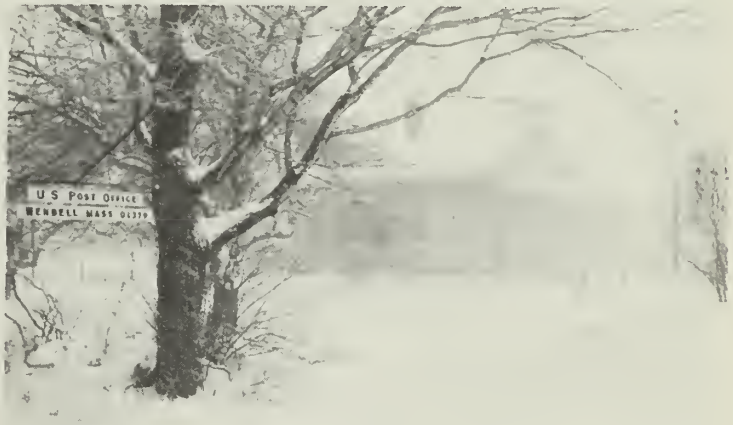
WENDELL POST

Vol. 1/No. 9 February 1978 25¢

Waiting For The Tax

Wendell's Assessors have set the tax rate and are now waiting for it's approval from Boston. "The tax bills should be out momentarily", said Joe Hartjens. "There's a delay in Boston. More than likely the wicked blizzard of '78 has held up your tax bills."



Rt.2 Meeting With DPW & National Wildlife Federation

The Town of Wendell was well represented at the February 1st meeting at the State DPW office in Boston. They were invited by Commissioner John Carroll to meet with other local officials and the National Wildlife Federation. They met to discuss objections raised by the Wildlife Federation to the 5.7 mile section of Rt. 2 proposed to be built through the Wendell State Forest.

At that meeting and subsequently, some of those people from Wendell expressed their understanding of the progress made at that meeting. Selectman Ted Lewis says, " I have favored the building of the road for 20 years for economic reasons. It will help our Town by helping to keep the places where we work." Although, he also said, "I hate to see any forest land taken from Wendell." He thinks improving the road "...would take too many houses in Erving." He agrees with Selectman Ellis that the naturalists are misinformed, "Animals don't drink from the river because it stinks so bad." Lewis thinks the DPW environmental reports will answer the ecological objections. While all the Selectmen don't see any direct tax benefit, Mr. Ellis would like to see the gas tax spent on construction of this improvement for our area. Lewis says that the road is necessary for the development of recreation and industry in this area.

Snow on The Mountain

Selectman Maurice Cole disagrees that the new road is necessary. He says, "I could see improving the old road." He can not see much local benefit from the road, "We wouldn't take that road to Greenfield anyway." John Koehler, of Bear Mountain Road says, "The economic justification for the road has not been substantiated, despite the widespread belief that it will have a positive impact. Nor has the assumption that a central county economy is the direction the economy will go in the future." Answering complaints about the safety of the road, he says, "State figures show that the present section is safer than the average in Massachusetts.

The Wildlife Federation has threatened to take the DPW to court on the basis of their conservation concerns and conservation law. The DPW will have to show that the South Bank Alignment is, in fact, the "most feasible and prudent alternative." The Wildlife Federation is not convinced at this point.

~ From The Staff ~

Route 2 Frustration

A recent statement by Selectman Donald Ellis misrepresents the sentiment of the Wendell electorate. The Greenfield Recorder (February 2, 1978) quoted him as saying, "...I admit there are a dozen or so people in Wendell strongly opposed to this (the Rt. 2 continuation through Wendell)..." Unless he questions the validity of the referendum, the facts do not uphold this statement.

On May 2, 1977, the Town of Wendell held it's annual election. Article 2, Question 5, was a referendum on the future construction of Mass. Rt. 2 in regard to Wendell. 238 citizens voted on this question and the results showed clearly that the majority of voters did not want the so-called South Bank Alignment built through the Wendell State Forest.

81 voters felt comfortable having the road built through Wendell. 87 people voted for the No-Build option, and 44 people wanted the road built elsewhere. 26 ballots were blank. 131-81, the voters of Wendell rejected the idea of constructing a major highway through their town.

Mr. Ellis goes on to say,"...But they (those opposed to the new road) aren't just opposed to this. They are opposed to everything." Upon what information is this state ment based? In what way does this inform us on the Rt. 2 issue, or how we should be concerned about the future of our town?

The frustration over the longstanding indecision on this piece of road is understandable, but to build the road "just to get it over with" does not justify its need. The No-Build Option does not preclude that the road should or could be improved. It has yet to be shown that the proposed new construction will benefit Franklin County or Wendell. When the facts are known, the people of Wendell make good decisions, even when they are hard. Far from "being opposed to everything", the majority of the people of Wendell are concerned about the future of this town. It is the job of our leaders to show us the best way to express that concern.

WENDELL POST

Vol. 1 Issue 9

This issue's staff:

Kathy Becker, Annie Diemand, Lewis Becker, Michael Idoine

Contributers:

Elsie Diemand, Penny Ricketts, Georgia Goodman, David White, Pat Judice

Please send all manuscripts, photos, letters to:
Wendell Post
Box 113
Wendell, Mass. 01379
or call Annie Diemand at 544-2762

Free Cash

Wendell taxpayers are now waiting for that little something in their mail, and it promises to be no valentine - the Fiscal Year 1977-1978 tax bill. With the Utilities and the Railroad already paying full value, the Telephone Company and the Microwave tower having its tax rate set by Boston, the State Forest not to be re-assessed until 1981, and in light of the recent decision at Special Town Meeting not to use a sum of money from available funds to reduce the tax rate, taxpayers will be shouldering the weight of their Town Budget with no one to look to but themselves.

Some may consider the $68,000 held in Free Cash as a hope for next year. Town Clerk Anna Hartjens explained this procedure in a recent interview at her home.

The townspeople could vote at Town Meeting to use Free Cash against next year's tax rate but there is a legal question involved here: Free Cash cannot be used in this way unless Boston certifies our Free Cash and issues a Free Cash Statement. The sending of this information to Boston is the job of the Town Treasurer.

The difficulty comes in that the practice of sending the information to receive a Free Cash Statement from Boston in time for Town Meetings has become less Crucial. The article on the Special Town Meeting warrant was the first time in the last 7-8 years that the Assessors have asked for money to reduce the tax rate.

Said Annie, "If people are in favor of an article on the warrant to resuce the tax rate they should go to the Board of Selectmen or the Assessors to make certain an article gets on the warrant. If it couldn't be done at the Annual Town Meeting, we could have a Special Town Meeting." She added that such an article could not be brought up as the last business, but must be a properly worded article on the warrant to be posted the proper amount of time before the meeting.

Letter to Post

Rebutal To Greenfield Recorder

The following letter appeared originally in the Greenfield Recorder on Feb. 7, 1978. It was written in response to an editorial printed Jan. 30, 1978.

In that editorial the Recorder staff expressed its impatience with the newly risen opposition from the National Wildlife Federation to the south bank Rte. 2 alignment through Wendell. In his response, John Koehler questions the concept of environmental protection that is being used to push this road ahead.

To the Wendell Post:

The Recorder editorial on January 31, "Realigning Route 2," attempted to gloss over some important and intelligent objections to the south bank alignment raised by the National Wildlife Rederation. It also misrepresented the Federation's position, and expressed a careless impatience about the project.

The editorial indicated that the Federation's no-build proposal meant leaving Rte. 2 through Erving as it is. This is untrue. The Federation favors upgrading the existing roadway, once the DPW adequately demonstrates the need for such improvement.

The editorial makes the blanket statement, "There is no possible alternative that has not been thoroughly explored on local, state, and federal levels." The meeting held in the DPW Commissioner's office in Boston on Feb. 1 produced significant evidence to the contrary. DPW Chief Engineer Robert Tierney stated that the no-build option was only touched on in the Environmental Impact Statement, supposedly the definitive study of all possible alternatives. Federation attorney David Burwell stated that the DPW needed to study more fully the many possible modifications of the existing road, such as widening, striping, and signalization, before lawful decision to use public forest lands could be made. Apparently no such study has been made, or it is embarrassingly incomplete, as there was no mention of it by any state or local officials present to counter Mr. Burwell's charge.

The editorial made an alarming premise for the south bank alignment in the following statement: "Franklin County is more than 90% wooded. The state owns many thousands of acres of county forest land. To run a state highway through the edge of one of a dozen of state forests is hardly endangering the concept of forest preservation nor is it depriving Massachusetts residents of invaluable land and opportunity." Each alignment must be judged on its own special characteristics. To hide the unique nature of Bear Mountain and the Millers River in a sweeping generalization about the quantity of forest land in the County (which, incidentally, is less than 80% wooded, not more than 90%) is to imply that such a small portion of forest, not to mention river-front forest, doesn't really matter. This implication reflects the environmental ignorance and carelessness which have led all of us into a threatening ecological situation, not just in the County, but everywhere. It is precisely this ignorance which has led to the need for conservation law, and which led the Commonwealth to buy up these forests in the first place, to place them in the public domain where they would be protected from misuse and mismanagement. The commitment of forest land to highway construction with a "we have plenty" attitude presents a serious threat to the concept of forest preservation, and it is naive to assume that such a highway would be "unpretentious." It would permanently and irretrieveably deprive us of an invaluable resource.

The objections to the south bank alignment raised by the National Wildlife Federation, and the suggested alternatives, should be welcomed and given careful scrutiny, not impatiently bulldozed aside. We cannot afford to make a careless decision. They only want to help us make the least regrettable choice.

Respectfully,
John Koehler
Miller's River Alliance
Wendell

Will It Never End?

CHIROPRACTIC

John Pratt, D.C.

77 Mohawk Trail
Greenfield, Mass.
Phone (413) 773-3280

Town Meeting Regrets

Special Town Meeting, just enough voters for a quorum - dismal and lonely, disquieting for just a few to make decisions that will affect so many. The discussion, heated at times, off the subject at times went on for forty-five minutes as all present spoke their concerns and listened carefully as the ten of us wrestled with the decision to apply $40,000 from free cash to the 1978 tax rate. Surely it would have been helpful, at the least, to have had additional imput - more people, more ideas, more discussion. The sheer weight of the responsibility of making a $40,000 decision was overwhelming - how best to consider everyone's concerns

That:

Passing the article would mean a $10-20/1000 reduction in the tax bill for every tax payer.

In the first year of 100 per cent valuation, the tax bill would not reflect the effect of the 100% valuation on each tax payer - in the long run.

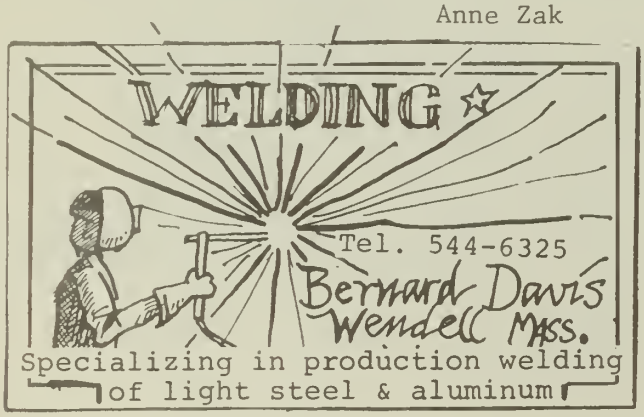
Free cash at the time of the meeting, totaled approximatily $63,000. To transfer $40,000 would leave but $23,000 in that account.

Repeated assurances by the assessors that tax bills would be promptly forthcoming have shown to be inaccurate - leaving the selectmen uneasy about transferring free cash, worried about getting caught short waiting for tax payments.

The wording of the article introduced at the Annual Town Meeting was incorrect in that monies should be applied to the 1978 tax rate instead of 1977, as stated.

All in all, the meeting was a disappointment- a disappointment that more people are not concerned about town affairs, a disappointment that so many would let so few.....

Anne Zak



WANTED

Foreign cars with solid bodies in need of mechanical repairs, tires or electrical work. Call 544-2282.

More Regrets

Many people were unaware of the Special Town Meeting on January 17 and others did not realize that an article having to do with the tax rate reduction would be included on the warrent. I regret that I did not attend this Special Town Meeting and, although this is belated, I certainly would have voted to apply the $40,000 to reduce the 1978 tax rate. It seems strange that this issue, which started with a mathematical error and was further complicated by a typographical error at the Annual Town Meeting, is still unresolved in my mind. The results of having no quorum are all too obvious.

David White, Ross Road

News Release from Rep. Simons

Representative Thomas G. Simons of Montague, House Minority Whip, has filed legislation for the second year in a row to establish a Municiple Assistance Bureau to assist towns and cities with their fiscal management.

This year, Representative Simons has the support of a prominent Democrat - Governor Michael Dukakis - whose State of the State Message recommended that such a plan be established.

The Municipal Assistance Bureau would, when a town or city requested help, aid a community with municipal problems such as collective bargaining, funding pensions and general fiscal management.

"This state service would be particularly valuable to the small towns of Western Massachusetts," Representative Simons stated. "Most towns are run by part-time elected officials who should find this kind of technical and administrative assistance very useful."

The bill establishes a nine member advisory board which would appoint a director of the bureau who could then use the staff resources of existing agencies as well as hire necessary additional staff. The board would establish policy guidelines for the bureau and monitor its operation.

Police Log

1-24-78	Accident on Farley Road
2-3-78	Louis Greco arrested for possession of marijuana
2-4-78	Charles Reublinger's trailer broken into
2-6-78	Two car accident on Lockes Hill Road

Selectmen's Minutes

Jan. 24, 1978

Road Surveyor, David Bardsley, complained about cars parked around the Town Hall and other places in Town. The Board informed David that they have passed an ordinance that there is a year round parking ban on all roads in Town. They have informed the Police Department to enforce this regulation.

Joseph Diemand requested extra sand be placed on New Salem Road. Especially on the dirt section. It is very dangerous with a school bus.

Joseph Diemand met with the Board concerning his junkyard. The discussion centered on future plans.

Joseph Diemand registered a complaint against the wiring inspector. He stated that it took over a month to get a new service inspected and over a month to get the follow up service inspected. It was noted that others also have had the same complaint.

Jan. 31, 1978

The Annual Town Meeting dates were set as follows:
Election, Monday, May 1, 1978
Pre-Meeting, Wednesday, May 3rd
Business meeting, Thursday, May 4, 1978.

Road Surveyor reported that the culvert on New Salem Road was installed. He also has been working to correct ice damage in various spots in Town, West Street, Porter Hill, near Mrs. Reed's, Locke Hill, Locke Village Road (from Ballou's to Burnett's).

A representative from the Youth Corp called and asked if the Town wants a youth now for 10 hrs. a week. The Board rejected the offer at this time for lack of supervision.

David requested that the Board move the dump fence in from the road about 20 feet.

Discussed the budget for Annual Town Meeting.

Discussed the Old Center School. To take it back from the School Committee or not.

Wood Stove Regulations

Chief Everett Ricketts has offered the following information on wood stoves and combination wood and oil burning furnaces:

A wood stove has to be 3 feet from any combustable surface.

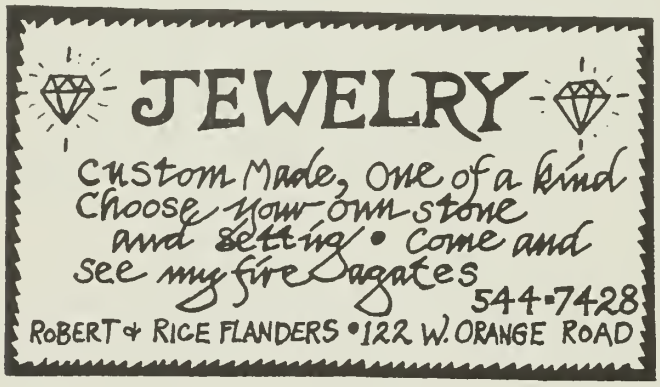
The stove pipe has to be 18 inches from any combustable surface.

Heat shields are recommended, and in the case of a heat shield being used, it should come out from the wall about one inch, enough space so the air can circulate.

A permit is required to install a wood stove. The permits are issued by the Building Inspector, Harold Burnett. Call 544-3430.

In Massachusetts, all wood and oil burning furnaces without an approval number from the Fire Marshall are illegal.

For any questions, call Everett Ricketts at 544-3494.



continued from page 7

Here the maker of this curious garden had beautiful rose gardens and many beds of perennial plants. The roses are still massed there on the higher terraces, and are said in June to be the loveliest in the whole countryside. Traces of old flower beds, competing now with the mosses and wild vines of the fields, still mantle the rocks.

Farther up, beyond the terraces, the stone steps lead into a pine wood, and it was evidently a sacred grove. "God Is Love" you can still spell on the rocks on the ground before a summer house that houses a great pine table, set about with 12 chairs.

Was it to symbolize the table of the Apostles, or just a hospitality of the maker? Each chair is distinctive, with its own individuality. Seats of four-inch pine are backed with antlered and twining alder. Outside other chairs, handcarved and massive in their day, rot under the pines.

A rocking chair that might have been made for a Pagan god of mythological proportions sits in ruin under a giant pine. Ornaments still hang about the trees. A kettle is suspended on a crane where once was an outdoor fireplace. continued on page 6

Maple Valley

I am basically writing this article to the Wendell community. As an active community member and student at Maple Valley School, I feel the need to express to the surrounding community WHO WE ARE and what kind of things WE DO here.

A big part of how we function is through meeting process. In the meetings we make laws (outside of the staff health and safety laws) which govern the school, deal with problems and express feelings and ideas. There are three kinds of meetings. First, there are Emergency Meetings. (Each community member has the right to call an emergency meeting at anytime.) Emergency Meetings are scheduled once a week and they are mandatory. They deal with problems we have; like laws being broken or a person's rights being violated. Second, Special Meetings, which only need half the community plus one to run, are nonmandatory. This meeting is for asking permission i.e. People visiting or using community space, or changing a motion or punishment. Third, General Meetings. They are nonmandatory and are scheduled once a week. Here you can make laws, plan activities, or express feelings and ideas. The meetings are run with parliamentary rule of order and run democratically, meaning each person has one vote. To me, that's a special kind of thing, to be able, as a kid, to have a say in how your school is run, and to have the same rights and same one vote as the staff or adults in the community.

Maple Valley is a State Approved School and offers and has given diplomas. There are many kinds of classes offered, from Math, English, and History program to Art, Photography and Skiing. It is each student's free choice to participate in any class or field trip. An important class, in my eyes, is the "Person Class." It's run in a humanistic education style and we talk and learn about who we are as people, relationships and changes.... things that seem necessary to understand and learn to deal with.

Another part of what we do is hang out and be with each other. A lot of talking, relating and sharing happens because it becomes a family type of environment, being the kind of school it is. This creates a supportive atmosphere, whether it is a one to one friendship or a community involvement kind of thing.

That's a basic description of what Maple Valley is. If people are interested in knowing more about us, we welcome visitors, with some kind of notice, so it can be brought up in a meeting for community permission.

Article by Wendy Piscioneri
Photograph by Carol Harvey

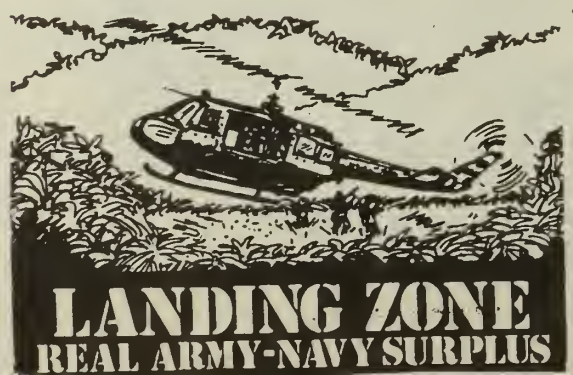
Valley Climbers

continued from page 5

A pulpit stands in the center of the secluded grove. A carpet of lady slippers, now green, makes Oriental colors in the Spring. Below the hill, the garden is floored in fern green. Blueberries that marvelously have escaped pickers ripen and drop on the ground where a rural artist worshipped his God with all the symbols of the Nature that he loved.

An explorer in the ruins may speculate on the years that were spent in fashioning these rocks and building the terraces, on the infinite patience of the man who cultivated gardens among the rocks and woods, and the laborious detail he worked in rustic chairs and arbors. Rufus Sibley's garden must have been an important part of his life's work, perhaps all of his life's worship.

CHIM-CHIMNEY SWEEPS
STEWART C. WOLFE
SWEEP
P. O. BOX 278
WENDELL, MASS., 01379
(617) 544-3454
(413) 256-8981



25 KING ST.
NPTN, MA.
01061
(413) 584-1373
11 CHAPMAN ST.
GNFIELD, MA.
01301
(413) 774-3472

Posting Place

There will be a meeting at the Town Hall Wednesday, February 22, at 7:30 for all organizations and individuals interested in Wendell Old Home Day 1978.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Monday, March 13, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Wendell Town Hall- Open to everyone. Please note change in time. In order that more working people might take advantage of this service, the afternoon and evening hours have been combined.

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Juanita Read cont. from page 10

As for hobbies, Neta loves to read. She used to do lots of sewing and made braided rugs. When asked how many she's made over the years, she said "Dozens." The last one she made was for Peggy's new home. And how long does it take? " Anywhere from four months, if I work at it steadily...or if I take my time, maybe a year and a half." We looked down at the two rugs she has in her living room, the colors so carefully blended and both at least fourteen feet long, and we knew the time and effort it had taken.

We asked if she recalled any of the old-time town Meetings. She replied, "Oh, yes,thirty years ago they were well attended. All the seats would be filled early and there would be standing room only. There were some lively discussions on the financing of the town budget. Everyone was interested in what should be done to improve the surroundings and to keep expenditures down. Sometimes the discussions became quite heated and exciting."

Neta is a member of the Wendell Golden Agers and looks forward to the meetings. She enjoys getting together with them on their outings and sometimes just to sit and talk. She thinks it's good for the older people. And the Wendell Post? She likes it and reads every word, from cover to cover.

She said of Wendell and its people, "Everybody's good around here and I like living in Wendell. The people are nice, the scenery is nice and its a relaxed environment. The foliage, I love. People drive for miles and miles to see it and we have it all around us. Wendell is a good place to live."

Special People & Places In Wendell

from a 1924 newspaper

WENDELL: Deep in the back hills of Franklin County, by the side of a road that is rarely travelled now, Rufus Sibley lived and died in the day when men read their Bibles by kerosene lamps, and sometimes saw a newspaper. Rufus Sibley must have died 30 years ago. And the remarkable garden he fashioned upon the sides of his rustic valley has mouldered in ruins under lady slippers and juniper clumps that have been squatters there for a quarter of a century.

Fifty years ago his terraced rose garden must have been the talk of the region, one of the wonders for the curious to observe.

The terraces and the rose garden, the stone seats and charis of alder and hewn pine have long been overgrown with creeping phlox and laurel. You can hardly see a trace from the road of the gardener who worshipped with the stones and flowers that lay at his hand. It is a little like excavating a buried civilization to come gradually upon his terraces of rock, and to count the rotting seats one by one among the underbrush, in his shaded groves of spruce and pine.

Almost Lost in the Turf

The county agent, who occasionally goes this way to his farthest towns, first caught the suggestion of the story that lay under the surface screen of petunias and blueberry bushes. Step by step, it was possible to reconstruct, almost to photography, in spite of dense shade and obstinate undergrowth, the wonderfully detailed landscape gardening of this 19th century hermit.

Beside the road, almost embedded in the turf, "Rustic Valley" is scrolled in stones. Flagstones wind into a tiny grove of spruce before a secluded old cottage, where Rufus Sibley's daughter still lives. A pagoda-like monument of variegated stones is a strange centerpiece for the grove. The rounded remains of many flower beds lie among stone seats.

The flagstones lead into a path, and on both sides the stone wall is arranged in a series of stone seats, each different from one another; some wide and deep, like grandfather chairs, some as narrow and upright as dining room furniture or balcony seats. The very fence has been made a continuing emblem of hospitality.

The stone path, now so overgrown as almost to be lost to sight, climbs to a series of terraces, seven altogether, each as much as 10 feet wide and several hundred feet long, built in semicircular fashion around the house and mounting by artificial stone ledges the hill behind.

continued on page 5

From The Office of The Town Clerk

May 1st is Election Day in Wendell. The Blanket Nomination Paper, which is a single nomination paper of all candidates for re-election, is listed below as it will read this year. New candidates and candidates who were appointed to fill empty seats until election will be responsible for taking around their own nomination paper.

B.N. - Blanket Nomination

Selectman	3 yrs	Donald Ellis
Assessor	3 yrs	Joseph Hartjens
School Com.	3 yrs	Mary Ellen Easterbrooks
Library Trust.	3 yrs	Marion Herrick
Library Trust.	1 yr	
Bd. of Health	3 yrs	David E. Wilder
Cemetery Com.	3 yrs	Charles H. Shaw
Cemetery Com.	1 yr	
Planning Bd.	5 yrs	Raymond Avery
Town Clerk	3 yrs	Anna Hartjens
Treasurer	3 yrs	
Tax Collector	3 yrs	Judith Wilder
Auditor	1 yr	Dolores Williston
Moderator	1 yr	Emma Cappelluzzo
Tree Warden	1 yr	Daniel Baciglupo

In the past, this town has had the custom that candidates for re-election are on the blanket nomination paper. A candidate for nomination may take out his own papers and get his own twenty signatures, but he should let the town clerk know, or his name will appear on the blanket.

Instructions to Nomination Paper Signers:

For signatures to be valid, the signer must be registered voter in town and the signature should be written substantially as registered and readable and with proper street listed. DO NOT SIGN NOMINATION PAPERS FOR MORE CANIDATES FOR OFFICE THAN THERE ARE TO BE FILLED. If a person can not write, he may ask someone else in his presence to sign for him, but must have the person who signed for him indicate that this has happened.

Nomination papers have to be turned in for certification of names at the Town Clerk's office on or before March 27th at 5:00 p.m.

Withdrawals or objections of nomination papers has to be done by April 3rd by 5:00 p.m.

Final voter registration for Annual Town Meeting is April 11th. Continuous registration sessions will be held on that day from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Other registration sessions will be held on Saturday April 8th from noon to 8:00 p.m. Contact the Town Clerk Anna Hartjens if you wish to register any other time. Telephone 544-6052

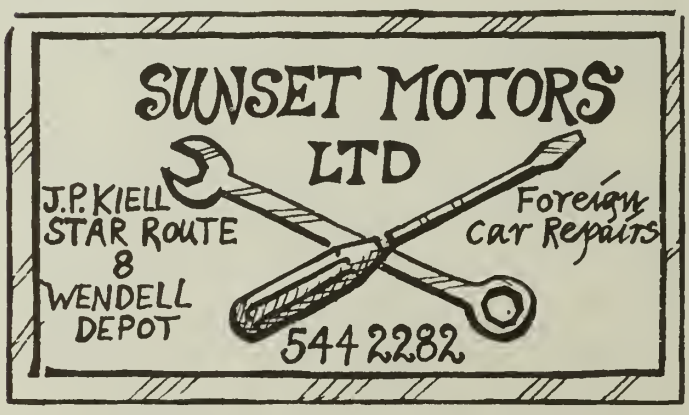
More on the Store Story

Additional information has come from Rubert Goddard concerning the store described in an old newspaper clipping entitled "In Which We Visit Wendell...." which appeared in the December/January issue of the Post. Rubert recognized the store as the one that used to be in what is now his home on Center Street. In a subsequent interview which took place on his front porch, Rubert pointed to the door of what is now a connected barn and explained "The entrance of the store was right there, just the same as it is now."

Rubert related a short history of the store, that Joe Hartjen's grandfather bought the store around 1922-23 from Charley Cogswell when it was in the big white house on the corner. Later, Curtis Tucker bought the goods and moved across the street. There he put up gas pumps as a sideline.

Ray Avery added to this information over coffee at Ballou's, as he recalled the store proprietor, Curtis Tucker. "He had an old stove in there. He used to sit around it and chew tobacco. He was as colorful a character as you'd want to meet. Spitting tobacco, that was Curtis Tucker." He remembered Curtis Tucker being an accomplished musician and the times when the old timers would get together and play after the Assessors' meetings.

Letters or information regarding Wendell's past are welcomed by the Wendell Post.



Social Notes

Girl Scout News

The Wendell Girl Scouts and Cadets, with their leader Penny Ricketts hosted the Wendell Golden Agers at a Valentine Party on the 14th in the Town Hall. The group entertained the Golden Agers with songs and the following played musical instruments: Tarra Simos, the flute; Shari Connolly, the clarinet; Joanne Carey, the guitar. Dianne Jean told of things the Scouts had done and Gilli Idoine spoke of future activities they planned. Denise Wilder led the group in a game called "Telephone", which demonstrated how a few words can grow and change in meaning when passed from person to person, as it does in gossip. Holiday refreshments were served by Kim Bardsley and Kara Burnett. The Golden Agers were much appreciative of the kindness shown them by the Girl Scouts and Cadets.

Ladies Aid News

Nine members of the Ladies Aid met at the Town Hall on the 9th of February. Replacement of the present sink, in the Town Hall kitchen, was the main topic of discussion. Gladys Powling and Cheryl Richardson will investigate several leads they have been given. After the business meeting a lunch was served by Sally Wilder and Flori Blackbird. Following the luncheon, slides were shown of the many animals in the Lion Safari Country in Central Florida. As the next meeting date is uncertain, members will be contacted by phone.

****

Maurice Lauro and Edna Burton were united in holy wedlock on Saturday, February 11th, at the Millers Falls Congregational Church. Reverend James Sterling performed the ceremony. Mrs. Lauro was formerly from New York. The couple will reside on Farley Road. Congratulations Maurice and Edna!

****

Mrs. Mary Saunders of the Bronx, N.Y. was a weekend guest at the home of Maurice and Edna Lauro. She celebrated her ninety-eighth birthday while here. Her health is surprisingly good, her mind keen, she is an avid reader, and she still has a marvellous sense of humor. Our congratulations and best wishes to you, Mary!

Film Schedule

The 1978 Film Series sponsored by the Wendell Free Library, with films obtained free of charge from the Western Regional Library System, is being held at the Town Hall, Wednesdays at 7:00 each week. A small donation will be accepted to help defray cost of utilities for the Town.

March 1 "The Five Chinese Brothers"(Short)
"Suspicion" -Alfred Hitchcock
Stars Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine

March 8 "In the Park"(Short)
"The March of the Wooden Soldiers"
The screen version of operatta
"Babes in Toyland"

March 15 "Discovering the Music of India" (Short)
"Gunga Din" -Soldier adventure

March 22 "Ishi in Two Worlds" (Short)
"The King and I" -Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr.

Lost

Gray female cat with yellow, white and black markings, in vicinity of Locks Hill Rd. If you find Soup, call 544-2282, gray house on corner of Stone Rd.

CARPENTRY & SNOW PLOWING

REASONABLE RATES

FREE ESTIMATES

NO JOB TOO SMALL

CALL RON SYLVIA - WENDELL

544-2205

Interview of The Month: Juanita Read

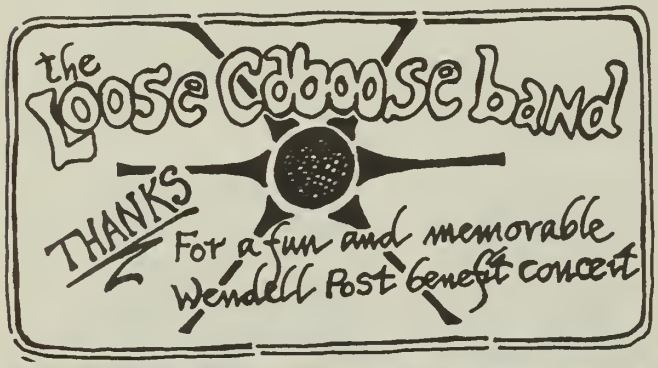
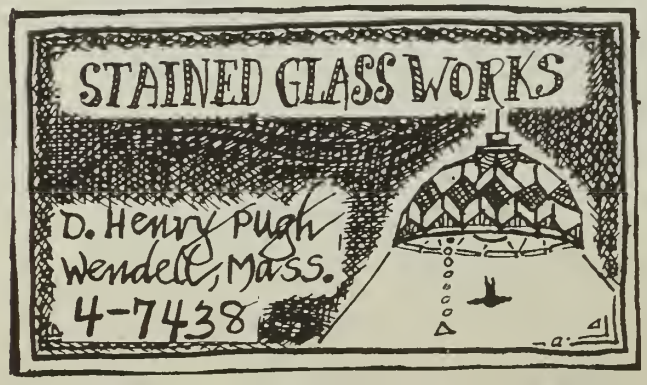
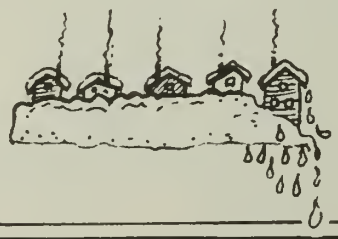
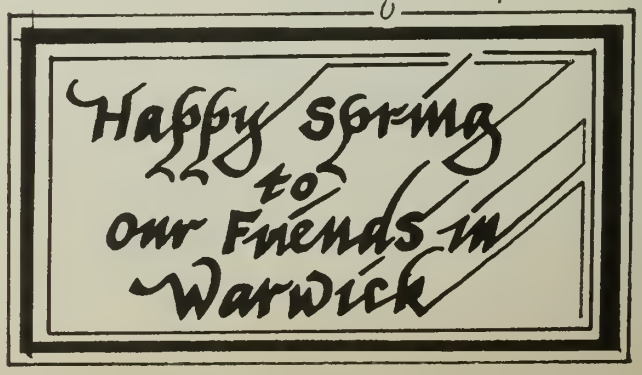
We visited another senior citizen this week, a gracious, gentle soul. Neta Read will be 86 years young March 29. She's an amazing person, someone who still does her own washing and hangs it on the line to dry because she likes to smell the freshness of clean clothes. Her friends think the reason she's so young in spirit is that she walks every day and in good weather it's usually a mile. She knows now that it isn't wise to walk in the winter because four years ago, on a late afternoon walk, she fell on the road and broke her hip and wrist. Fortunately someone came by and got help. After months in the hospital and nursing home, she came home and her persistence in doing the therapy recommended paid off. She now walks without even a limp.

Neta explained that she was born in Nova Scotia because even though her parents lived in Boston where her father owned two shoe stores, her mother decided to go visit her own parents and she didn't quite make it back in time! Neta married quite young to Bill Read who worked in the shipyards. During the World War II, he was an army engineer. Much of their married life was spent in Port Washington, Long Island. She worked before and after their two children were born as a proofreader. After Bill's retirement, in 1943, they searched for a place in the country, where he could have a small farm and raise a few cows. They fell in love with the place in Wendell and bought it on the spot. That first night, since there were no beds, they slept on straw from the barn.

Before settling down, they decided to make one last trip to the west coast to see Neta's father. This is a bit of romance, so it must be told....

Neta's mother and father years ago had come to the parting of ways. It was the year 1898 during the Gold Rush and she would have none of it. So off he went to fame but not fortune. He became Mayor of Nome and helped to build that city up in the early 1900's. The romance was being rekindled in 1943 and Neta's Dad came back east with them and remarried her mother. But it just did not work, so he moved to Wendell. He was now 82 and he spent his last years...and they were happy ones... with Neta and Bill. He spent many hours renovating the house. Neta spoke with tears as she told of the work he had done.

Not too long after his death, another unhappy event overshadowed their lives. They returned one day from Orange, to find their home in flames. Only the barn was saved. They spent the rest of the winter at Kupper's home, down the road. Their determination surfaced again after the shock of it all and they decided to go back to New York and work to earn enough money to rebuild. It took seven long years, but they did it. Today a lovely, warm and comfortable home stands. Her picture window looks out over the valley and mountains and in all four seasons is breathtaking. The sunsets are something to behold. It is small wonder that Neta would not live elsewhere.

Neta has one son, Allison, who lives in Florida. She lost her only daughter, Paula, a few years ago after a long illness. To those who knew her, she was a lovely person just like her mother. There are five grandchildren, one of whom is Peggy Simos, our Town Treasurer, who lives near Neta. Tarra Simos is one of Neta's great grandchildren and she is in the fourth grade at Swift River.

continued on page 7